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UTICA, NEW YORK
PRESS

M. 29,278

FEB 25 1967

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CIA Activities Essential, Pirnie Says

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Press Washington Bureau

Rep. Alexander R. Pirnie, R-New Hartford, says the Central Intelligence Agency is only doing what is necessary for the national security.

"The recent information relative to the activities of the CIA is in no sense disturbing," Pirnie says. "There is no indication that it has subverted American institutions or controlled the educational process."

Pirnie's membership on the House Armed Services Committee gives him access to information about the CIA which most other House members do not have. But it also means he has to speak carefully about such classified matters, he said, to prevent any compromise of official secrets.

The CIA's financial involvement with the National Student Association is nothing unusual, Pirnie said, and if, for example, the agency has supplied funds to any college or university in his district it would not surprise or upset him.

"There is no evidence the CIA laid down the policies for these organizations," Pirnie said. "I don't see any attempt at government control there."

But, he said, it is important for the country to know whether the students who are representing it abroad are loyal. "Loyalty is a factor in responsibility," Pirnie said. "This doesn't mean a person can't disagree with certain policies. There is plenty of room for flexibility within these standards."

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THE CIA "is required to be in touch with the activities of organizations of varying types and to do so through individuals participating therein is a normal intelligence procedure," Pirnie said. "Further," he added, "it is to be expected that such sources will not be publicized."

A subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee is one of two House

groups which is supposed to keep track of what the CIA is doing. Although not a member of the subcommittee, Pirnie said he thought it was doing a good job. He also said he thought the CIA is making an honest effort in a tough business.

"The CIA's not perfect," Pirnie acknowledged, "but I'm convinced of its integrity."

ON ANOTHER matter, Pirnie said he supports the recommendations of the House committee which has urged the seating and disciplining of

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (Story, Page One.)

Pirnie termed the recommendations "necessary in order to deal effectively with the situation" and said he expected to vote for the proposals when they come up in the House next Wednesday.

"What we want to try to accomplish by this action is to take steps to make it known that Congress will not condone the abuse of power or the misuse of funds," Pirnie said. He added, however, that any attempt to expel Powell at this time would be wrong.

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